Rome Palazzo Poli May 2

1862

My dear Tom

I received your kind letter of sympathy in which you anticipated the death of my dear one, which in all its circumstances has been so cruel – for poor dear Lord she was tributating onwards to Rome where we fondly dreamed to sink down into a "Darby & Joan" life & I had taken a house & prepared for her, but it was not to be. – 'Tis very cruel for me thus to have lost the dear partner of 34 years, when I stood in need of her help in all my Public affairs in which she would have so much excelled – but patience, we have to submit to the decrees of Providence also I try to be tranquil & the intensity of my occupation drives me from brooding over my great loss –

Yet my journey to Marseilles was such a sad mortification – At midnight

I received the alarming telegrams & at 6 was ready for my journey, but my passport had to be signed by the Police or they might have sent me back from Civita Vecchia — by this delay I arrived two days after instead of two days before my dear wifes death & did not even see her — but my excellent son W. Gale has arrived the day before & so all was over. — You will be grieved to know that by the laws of France I was subjected to a fine of a thousand Francs £40 in addition to all the enormous Hotel charges about 240£ in all at Marseilles For awhile I shall be crippled, but with rigid saving, it will all come right I have arranged to bring back to Rome my dear Eleanor who had been in constant attendance on her mother, but it was decided that she

was to go to Claudia - such was her wish dying request & no doubt 'tis the best for 2 would not have had time to attend to her, all this & 2 have many kind Lady Js

I am writing with her dear portrait before me & cannot but think that she was a wonderful good parent, so devoted to her children, entering in her care & with great judgment & decision

Amongst her letters I find one from my Henry who had been told of her fatal illness he tells her "that the utmost we as human creatures can expect to do is to fulfill the office decreed for us by Providence" then he tells her "that she has done her part faithfully & devotedly - all her children are good, clever, in well being & bless her name, & thus it is easier to die having nobly lived"

I was all Easter Sunday on the tranquil Mediterranean sea returning to Rome & I wrote all my remembrances of her & all the praises for her great virtues

documents, passports particularly, to listen to all appeals, & propose remedies — At 4 I go to my audiences with the Ministers of State & at 6 go to the Public walk & hear the French band — Then I return to dine at ½ to 6. — frequently I go out in the evening — As yet I have not had time to get done the Photograph in my State drop with my Sword & Star, but soon you shall have it particularly as I am now exhibiting a "bald pate" & look with becoming gravity — You will all think that I have a hard task before me but I dont despair at all, whilst I have health & calmness — & then will soon return to London to begin "cramming" for office

I should certainly have sunk under my anguish if my poor dear wife had attempted the tremendous journey to Paris in her state for she must have died on the road, what an awful thing! — as it is her last days were taken with [illegible] about her & that she had every comfort — yet it seems a cruel end when I reflect that you might have cared her dont you think so? Your affectionate Brother